

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 730

By Sexton

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Plateau Longbeards upon winning national awards at the National Wild Turkey Federation National Convention and Sport Show.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary wildlife habitat conservation organizations which have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to excellence, to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary organization is the Plateau Longbeards chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, which recently won several national awards at the thirty-sixth annual National Wild Turkey Federation National Convention and Sport Show; and

WHEREAS, the Plateau Longbeards were honored for their excellence in providing opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities, and they received national acclaim for their role in nurturing youth interest in and education about the outdoors and advocating an active lifestyle through the NWTF's Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics, and Sportsmanship (JAKES) outreach program; and

WHEREAS, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the wild turkey and preserving our hunting heritage, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is the leader in upland wildlife habitat conservation in North America; and

WHEREAS, through dynamic partnerships with state, federal, and provincial wildlife agencies, the NWTF and its members have helped restore wild turkey populations throughout North America, spending more than \$331 million to conserve 16 million acres of habitat; wild turkeys and hundreds of other species of upland wildlife, including quail, deer, grouse, pheasant, and songbirds, benefit from this improved habitat; and

WHEREAS, the NWTF also brings new conservationists and hunters into the fold through outdoor education events and its JAKES and Xtreme JAKES youth outreach programs; and

WHEREAS, the JAKES program was founded as a means to provide children an opportunity to explore their outdoor world through hundreds of fun-filled events held across North America; and

WHEREAS, at the NWTF National Convention and Sport Show, which was held on February 10, 2012, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, the Plateau Longbeards from more than 250 participants as the recipients of the 2011 JAKES Best Event Award, and they also received the NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen awards for the Best Hunting Event and the Best Fishing Event; and

WHEREAS, more than 600 youth attended the Plateau Longbeards JAKES event, which required hard work and planning to secure sponsorships and the cooperation of the community; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding chapter committee members of the Plateau Longbeards, whose dedicated efforts proved invaluable to the great success of this year's JAKES event are: Robin Jernigan, Mike Whittenburg, and Micky Griffin; all other members should be specially commended for their peerless leadership; and

WHEREAS, JAKES Day is but one of the many programs hosted each year by the Plateau Longbeards. Other events hosted by the chapter are: the JAKES Turkey Hunt (for children who have never harvested a turkey), the JAKES Dove Shoot (for children), the Wheelin' Sportsmen Turkey Hunt (for disabled hunters who can no longer hunt without assistance), the Wheelin' Sportsmen Fishing Derby, Bubba Fest, and the annual City of Crossville Christmas Parade; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body pause to recognize and commend the Plateau Longbeards for their laudable achievements in preserving our hunting heritage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Plateau Longbeards upon winning national awards at the thirty-sixth National Wild Turkey Federation National Convention and Sport Show, applaud the chapter's dedication to providing opportunities to those with disabilities to hunt, fish, and participate in outdoor activities commend them for educating the youth of Tennessee in all things outdoor, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.